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FUROR GROWS OVER PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Trump: Comments were 'tough'; Durbin reports repeated use of vulgarity

BY JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS

WASHINGTON

It was just after President Donald Trump had finished railing in the Oval Office against African immigrants he said came from "s***hole countries" when a senior Republican senator, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who was there to negotiate a deal on immigration, spoke up.

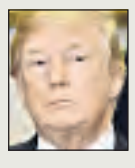
"America is an idea, not a race," Graham said, according to three people familiar with the exchange Thursday. Diversity was a strength, he said, not a weakness. And by the way, the senator added, he himself was a descendant of immigrants who came to the United States from "s***hole countries with no skills."

Trump's racially charged comments in front of several lawmakers, which also extended to immigrants from Haiti — followed by a day in which members of Congress denounced the president, defended him or stayed silent — now threaten what had been an emerging agreement to protect immigrants brought illegally to the United States as children.

Several people with knowledge of the conversation said the president had also demanded to know whether Haitian immigrants could be removed. The White House has not disputed the account of the ex-

SEE TRUMP • A6

PAID FOR SILENCE?



Donald Trump

President Donald Trump's personal lawyer brokered a $130,000 payment to a porn star in 2016 to prevent her from disclosing an alleged sexual encounter with Trump, according to a published report. Story, **A4**.

HAYNE PALMOUR IV U-T

Thomas Lee, 4, pets a goat in the current Children's Zoo, which will be replaced by a new 2.3-acre project on the same site.

$30M GIFT TO LAUNCH CHILDREN'S ZOO

Billionaire gives boost to $69M project that will give kids immersive experience, connect them to nature

BY ROGER SHOWLEY

A new $69 million Children's Zoo with a treehouse, supersized beehive, meandering streams and suspension bridges was announced Friday by the San Diego Zoo, along with a $30 million naming gift for what will be its costliest project yet.

Billionaire T. Denny Sanford, who has previously donated $8 million to underwrite the zoo's children's TV series and other projects, pledged his support last summer, and the zoo will spend this year raising the rest of the funds before starting construction next year. The opening is projected for the spring of 2021.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to completely reimagine a children's zoo for the 21st century," said Mark Stuart, president of the Foundation of San Diego Zoo Global.

The project cost and donation are record amounts for San Diego Zoo Global, Stuart said. The recently opened Africa Rocks exhibit cost $68 million.

"It's just exactly what the city and the zoo needs because it's going to relate better to the little ones," Sanford said in an interview after he addressed zoo staff at an

SEE ZOO • A10

SAN DIEGO ZOO GLOBAL

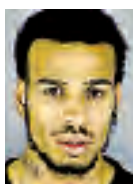
The Sanford Children's Zoo is projected to open in 2021.

BROTHER OF SLAIN ISIS FIGHTER TO SERVE 10 YEARS

Informant testimony led to guilty plea on weapons, lying charges

BY KRISTINA DAVIS

When news spread that former San Diego City College student Douglas McCain had died in battle in Syria — making him the first U.S. citizen to be killed fighting for the Islamic State — the investigation quickly pivoted close to home. How had he gotten there, and who had been supporting him?



Douglas McCain

Marchello McCain

The FBI scrutiny landed on his brother, Marchello McCain, living in an apartment in east San Diego, and a close-knit group of friends the siblings had made growing up in Minnesota — some of whom were radicalized when they previously lived in San Diego.

On Friday, one arm of the investigation culminated with a 10-year prison sentence for Marchello McCain. The 35-year-old factory worker had pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of firearms and lying to the FBI as they probed his brother's terrorism ties.

But, in arguing for a stiffer prison sentence, prosecutors accused Marchello McCain of far more sinister motives, laying out for the first time in great detail evidence they say shows he was part of a conspiracy to support terrorism in Syria, and that he planned to eventually join his brother in the jihad there.

Bolstering their case was an informant, a 22-year-old former San Diegan and one-time jihad supporter who testified for a few hours during the sentencing hearing in front of U.S. District Judge Thomas Whelan.

The testimony by the informant, Abdirahman Bashir, gave incredible insight into how a network of young men in the United States became radicalized, the powerful recruiting methods they used on family and friends, and the logistics of leaving everything behind to fight for martyrdom overseas.

The McCain brothers grew up in Minneapolis, with Douglas moving first to San Diego in 2005 and Marchello following a year later. Douglas moved with two friends who were brothers

SEE BROTHER • A8

WALL SECURITY COSTS COUNTY NEARLY $900,000

BY GREG MORAN

U-T WATCHDOG

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department incurred nearly $900,000 of added costs to provide patrols and security during the month-long construction of eight border wall prototypes by the federal government on Otay Mesa, records show.

Those costs pushed the total local law enforcement extra expenses — primarily overtime and supplies — to more than $1 million for the project.

Most of the expense for the sheriff's department came in overtime pay for deputies. The county paid out $764,278 in overtime during the month — more than it paid deputies in the regular wages, which amounted to $715,170.

The overtime costs were not the only expenses for the county, which patrolled the area between Sept. 26 and Oct. 26 near where the prototype walls were constructed. Other costs were:

• $118,092.66 for miles of chain link fencing, "k-rail" barriers and

SEE COSTS • A12

JOHN GIBBINS U-T

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department has incurred nearly $900,000 in expenses to protect the wall prototypes.

MORE CONTROL SOUGHT OVER BORDER LAND USE

BY RON NIXON

WASHINGTON

The Trump administration is seeking new authority to acquire land near the southern border with Mexico as part of its plan to quickly build immigration barriers, angering activists who said it would violate liberties and endanger the environment as a cost of fulfilling the president's campaign promise.

The proposed changes are outlined in a border security budget document that was prepared by an agency within the Department of Homeland Security. It was delivered to Congress last week in a funding request asking for $33 billion for border security over the next decade, including $18 billion for a nearly 1,000-mile wall on the U.S.-Mexico border that President Donald Trump has made a top priority to combat illegal immigration.

The department already has sweeping authority exempting it from a wide range of federal regulations that would otherwise limit its ability to build border fencing and access roads, or add sen-

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